



GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal: The Road to the White House

About This Journal

The GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal is a useful tool with which students may research, document and analyze the 2008 election season

The user-friendly home page guides students through the election process beginning with the search for basic information about political parties, campaign issues and presidential candidates. Next, students follow the nomination phase of the election season which begins with the state primaries and caucuses and ends with the national nominating conventions. As the general election nears, students examine the election debates, storing their information and thoughts in their election journal. The GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal is also a powerful analysis tool with which students may compare and contrast the issues and candidates as well as enter and examine election results.

The GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal does not contain election-related information. The election journal forms and reports provide a format for entering, viewing and printing information defined and entered by the user. Information stored in and printed from the election journal is completely user-defined, allowing students of all ages to engage with the presidential elections as little or as much as they choose.

Educational Benefits

The flexible, standards-based lesson incorporates basic literacy strategies and provides a practical, first-hand approach to learning about all aspects of the election process. The GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal contains four interactive components.

1. **Organize.** Once students enter election-related terms and definitions in the Election Dictionary, they may print a copy of their dictionary and a set of vocabulary self-awareness flash cards.
2. **Collect.** Students identify the political parties, candidates and issues which are important to the 2008 presidential election. As students enter the results of state primaries and caucuses, the journal becomes an electronic scorecard which can be used to chart the distribution of delegates prior to the national nominating conventions. On election night, students tally election results and examine the allocation of electoral votes.
3. **Analyze.** The versatile election journal enables students to enter, sort and examine information, thus supporting informed decision-making. Using the provided forms and tools, students may sort and analyze the information in a variety of ways. Students may examine and print candidate views on the issues or chart the results

of state primaries and the general election. The accuracy and reliability of the reports and charts is directly related to the accuracy of the information entered by the user.

4. **Reflect.** The GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal provides opportunities for students to record personal thoughts on election-related events. By the end of the election season, students will have compiled a valuable personal journal which explores one of the most important features of our American democracy—elections and voting.

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